

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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**Mayor Betsy Price Supports Passage of New U.S. Conference of Mayors
Resolution in support of the Land and Water Conservation Fund and
Urban Parks**

*Co-sponsored by the Mayors for Parks Coalition, the bipartisan resolution urges Congress
to reauthorize and fully fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund
set to expire this September*

FORT WORTH, Texas – Today, Mayor Price joined 22 fellow mayors from across the country in supporting a resolution calling for the reauthorization and full funding of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). The resolution passed unanimously today at the **U.S. Conference of Mayors** annual meeting in San Francisco, CA. Mayor Price is a member of the [Mayors for Parks](#) coalition, a bipartisan project of the City Parks Alliance that seeks to increase the amount of federal funding for public parks, trails and green spaces in urban areas.

The **Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)** is an important source of funding for local governments to create and protect green spaces in urban and metropolitan areas. Created in 1964 with strong bipartisan support, LWCF has supported more than 42,000 projects in almost every county in the country. The fund is paid for by offshore oil and gas royalties, not taxpayer dollars, making it one of our most effective federal programs. Unfortunately, LWCF has only been funded at its full, \$900 million authorized amount once in its history, and current funding is set to expire on September 30 unless Congress takes action.

President Obama has called on Congress to fully fund the legislation, and by signing the resolution today, the mayors joined the President and other supporters, including Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell, in speaking out strongly in support of refunding the LCWF.

“Cities that have well-maintained parks are not just healthier; they’re more economically viable. I’m pleased to join fellow mayors across the country to support the full funding of the Land and Water Conservation Fund. I look forward to working with leaders across the nation as we promote our parks system, a critical piece of our cities infrastructure” said Mayor Price.

The full text of the resolution as submitted is below.

Resolution No.

Submitted by: Salt Lake City Mayor Ralph Becker

Sponsors:

The Honorable Jim Brainard, Mayor of Carmel, IN

The Honorable Michael F. Brennan, Mayor of Portland, ME
The Honorable Chris Coleman, Mayor of Saint Paul, MN
The Honorable Michael B. Coleman, Mayor of Columbus, OH
The Honorable Mick Cornett, Mayor of Oklahoma City, OK
The Honorable Pauline Cutter, Mayor of San Leandro, CA
The Honorable Eric Garcetti, Mayor of Los Angeles, CA
The Honorable Javier Gonzales, Mayor of Santa Fe, NM
The Honorable Andy Hafen, Mayor of Henderson, NV
The Honorable Charlie Hales, Mayor of Portland, OR
The Honorable Michael B. Hancock, Mayor of Denver, CO
The Honorable Edwin M. Lee, Mayor of San Francisco, CA
The Honorable Tony Martinez, Mayor of Brownsville, TX
The Honorable Ed Murray, Mayor of Seattle, WA
The Honorable Betsy Price, Mayor of Fort Worth, TX
The Honorable Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, Mayor of Baltimore, MD
The Honorable Pedro Segarra, Mayor of Hartford, CT
The Honorable Paul Soglin, Mayor of Madison, WI
The Honorable Greg Stanton, Mayor of Phoenix, AZ
The Honorable Marilyn Strickland, Mayor of Tacoma, WA
The Honorable Martin Walsh, Mayor of Boston, MA
The Honorable Knox White, Mayor of Greenville, SC

THE LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND AND URBAN PARKS

1. **WHEREAS**, eighty percent of people in the United States live in cities, and cities generate 85% of our GDP; and
2. **WHEREAS**, urban areas are the engines generating our nation's prosperity, keeping America competitive in the rapidly changing global market, and the most economically sound cities are the ones with ample parks and open spaces; and
3. **WHEREAS**, with Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) support, cities are investing in parks, trails and playspaces, and creating healthy communities where young adults are choosing to live and work, and families are choosing to raise their children; and
4. **WHEREAS**, parks support public health, workforce development, local economies, the environment, education, and community cohesion which are critical to creating resilient, livable, and vibrant cities; and
5. **WHEREAS**, a key factor in business relocation decisions is the quality of life for employees, with a premium placed on adequate parks and open space; and

6. **WHEREAS**, studies have shown that houses near parks and trails have 5% to 20% higher property values than those in the surrounding community; and
7. **WHEREAS**, healthy parks and urban green spaces are strongly linked to a greater sense of safety, less aggressive and violent behavior and lower levels of crime; and
8. **WHEREAS**, children living near parks have greater opportunities to be physically active by running, walking or participating in other recreational activities, thereby helping to combat the problem that one in three children in the United States is overweight or obese; and
9. **WHEREAS**, parks and open spaces help mitigate the impacts of climate change by helping to cool cities, clean the air, and capture and store rain during extreme precipitation events; and
10. **WHEREAS**, the LWCF has strong bi-partisan support and is one of the nation's most important tools for creating and protecting green space in America's urban areas; and
11. **WHEREAS**, the LWCF is funded through revenues from offshore oil and gas drilling royalties, a portion of which is matched by state and local contributions thereby increasing the return on investment without using federal tax dollars; and
12. **WHEREAS**, the LWCF funding is an essential resource for cities as they seek to develop new or revitalize existing urban parks, green spaces, and recreation opportunities; and
13. **WHEREAS**, the LWCF has supported more than 42,000 projects that are found in 98% of the nation's counties; and
14. **WHEREAS**, the LWCF has generated more than 42,000 matching grants totaling more than \$4 billion, leveraging billions more in local public and private investment; and
15. **WHEREAS**, the LWCF, one of the nation's most successful programs in the nation, helping to keep our cities vibrant, healthy and competitive, is set to expire on September 30, 2015; and
16. **WHEREAS**, President Obama has called on Congress to fully fund the LWCF at its fully authorized amount of \$900 million in its FY '16 appropriations bill; and
17. **WHEREAS**, President Obama has called on Congress to resurrect the Urban Parks and Recreation Recovery (UPARR) program with a request of \$25 million in its FY '16 appropriations bill; and

18. **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors applauds President Obama for his leadership and commitment to fully fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund at \$900 million and UPARR at \$25 million; and
19. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress to support reauthorization of the Land and Water Conservation Fund at its fully funded \$900 million to help establish and support great urban parks; and
20. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress to support the President's request to fund UPARR at \$25 million in its FY '16 appropriations bill; and
21. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Mayors to raise awareness of the need for greater public and private investment in parks and green space to create healthy, vibrant and sustainable cities; and
22. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors and the nation's Mayors stand ready to work in partnership with the President, all members of the Administration and Congress, and the American people in this important effort to keep our cities strong and competitive.